Heavenly Children

The Valuable Gift

Imam al-Mahdi (a)

14

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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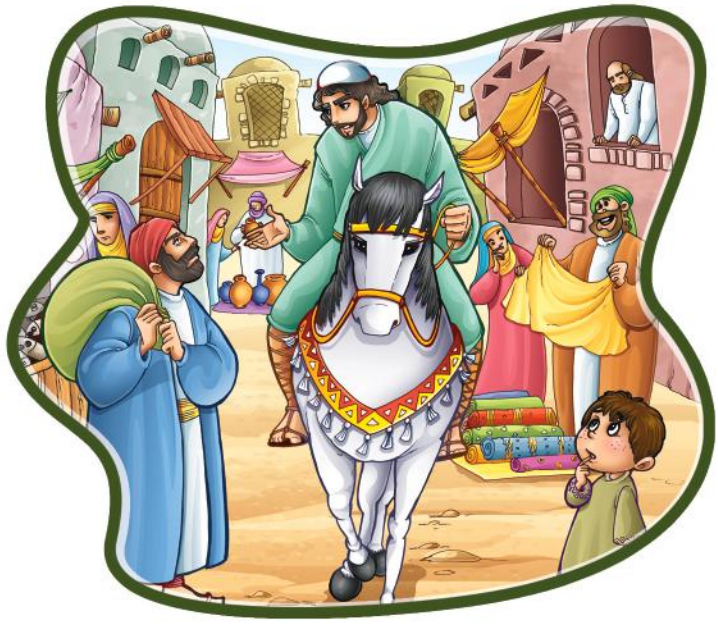


Kisa Kids Publications

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

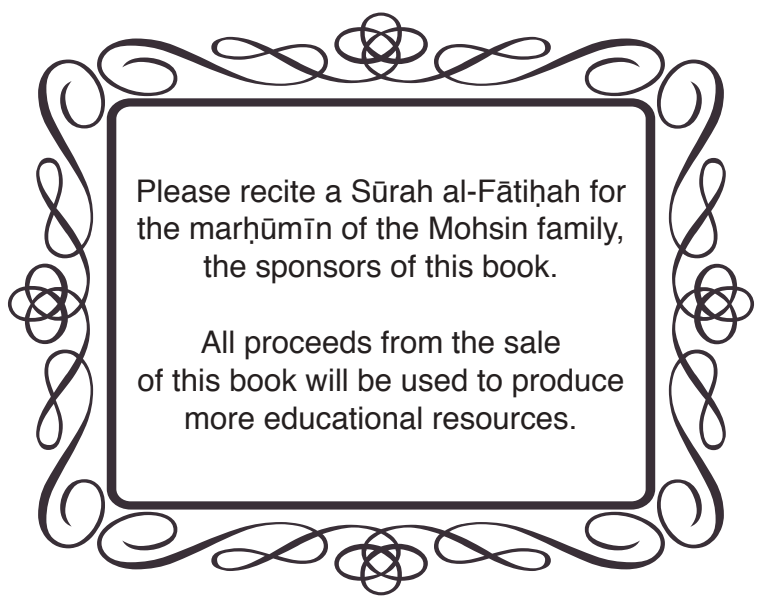
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

Ahmad, Mama, and Baba had spent the whole afternoon talking about their upcoming ziyārah trip to visit the fourteen Maʿṣūmīn.

"I know the last Maʿṣūmīn we will visit! It's our twelfth Imām (ʿaj)!" Ahmad said. "I know he's alive, so we can go visit him, right?"

"Well, Imām Muḥammad al-Mahdī (ʿaj) is alive and is always guiding us, but we cannot go visit him because we don't know exactly where he is. He is in *ghaybah*."

"What's *ghaybah*?" Ahmad asked.

"*Ghaybah* means 'occultation,' which means becoming hidden. The *ghaybah* is divided into two time periods: *Al-Ghaybah as-Ṣughrā* and *Al-Ghaybah al-Kubrā*."

"What's the difference between the two?" Ahmad asked.

"*Al-Ghaybah as-Ṣughrā*, the smaller occultation, took place from when the Imām (ʿaj) was five years old and lasted for 68 years. Although the exact location of the Imām was kept secret, he would answer people's questions through his four representatives." Mama explained. "*Al-Ghaybah al-Kubrā*, or the greater occultation, began after the Imām's fourth representative died, and still continues to this day."

"Why is his location hidden, though?" Ahmad asked.

"Remember all those times that the caliphs poisoned the Imāms, or the people stood against the Imāms? Well, because the people aren't ready to follow the Imām (ʿaj) and support him in his work, Allah has kept him safe until the people are willing and ready to stand for the mission of Islam under the Imām's guidance," Baba said. Ahmad sat thinking about this for a minute.

Mama added, "Remember when the Imām (ʿaj) was born on the 15th of Shaʿbān, his father kept him hidden?" Ahmad nodded. "His father, Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) only told a few close companions about the Imām (ʿaj). The caliphs knew that the twelfth Imām (ʿaj) would spread peace and justice, which means he would put an end to their corrupt rule. After leading the funeral prayers of his father, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj) went into *ghaybah*. He will come back once he has enough followers to help him spread peace and justice."

"Can I be one of his followers?" Ahmad asked eagerly.

"Inshāʾ Allāh!" Baba said. "Inshāʾ Allāh, we can all do good deeds, make good choices, and prepare ourselves to be his followers and companions!"

Ahmad became quiet again. "How are we going to visit him?"

Baba responded, "Although we do not have to go anywhere to visit him — really, we can talk to him wherever we are — we will visit Masjid al-Jamkarān in Iran, which is the masjid of our Imām (ʿaj)." Ahmad's face brightened, glad to hear this.

His father said, "Let me tell you a great story about another Ahmad, who was a companion of our beloved Imām (ʿaj)!"

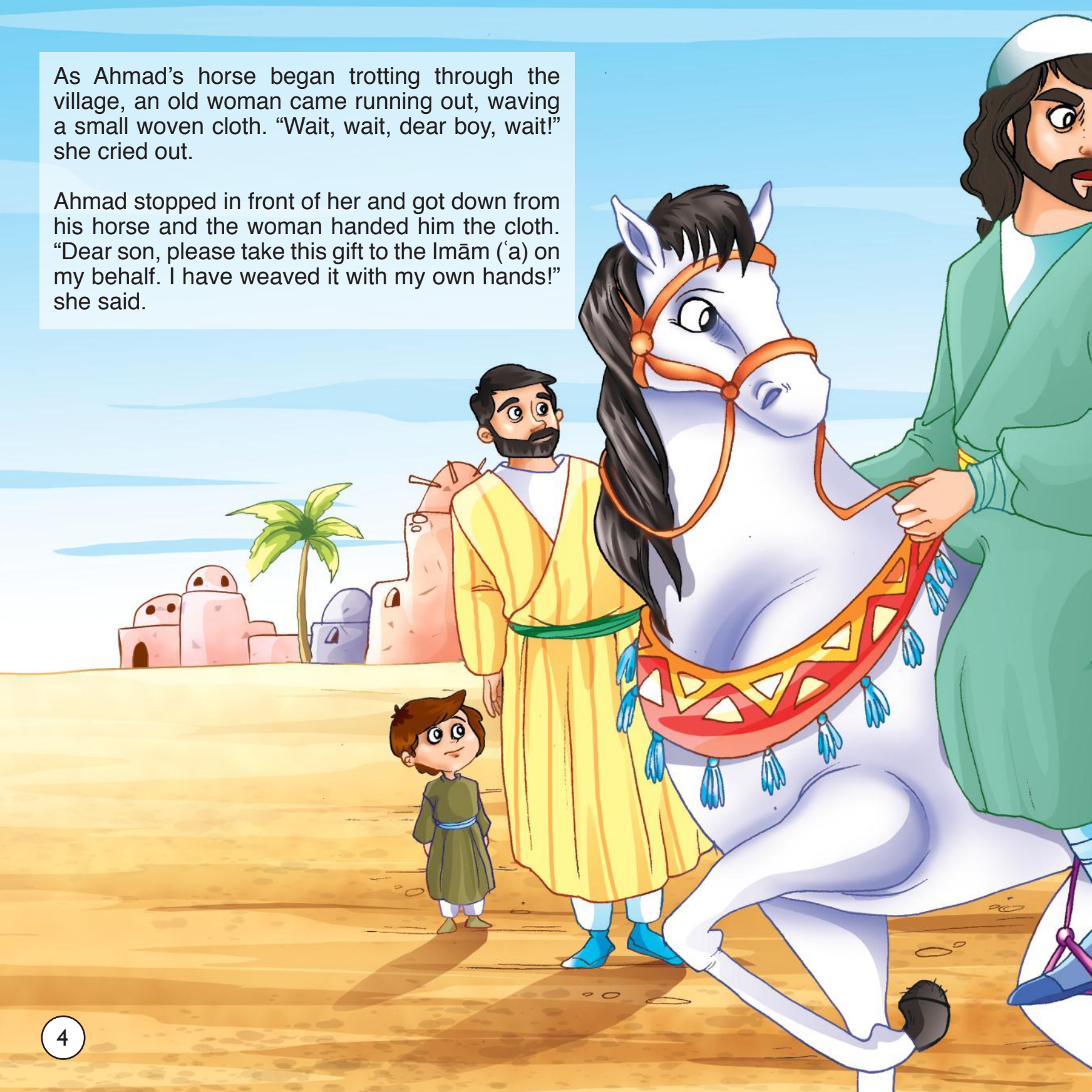
As Ahmad finished his speech, the crowd's eyes filled with tears of wonder and awe. Ahmad was a strong believer, and his words were filled with his deep faith in Allah. Such sincere words had a powerful effect on the listeners.

People flocked around him now, handing him letters and gifts that they wanted him to deliver to Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa). They had come from so many faraway places to the city of Qum, just so they could have their gifts delivered to their Imām (ʿa)! Many did not even know Ahmad personally, but they trusted him with their precious parcels. Ahmad carefully packed all the letters and gifts into the side of his horse's saddle.

He mounted his horse, took hold of the reins, and bid farewell to all the believers.

As Ahmad's horse began trotting through the village, an old woman came running out, waving a small woven cloth. "Wait, wait, dear boy, wait!" she cried out.

Ahmad stopped in front of her and got down from his horse and the woman handed him the cloth. "Dear son, please take this gift to the Imām (ʿa) on my behalf. I have weaved it with my own hands!" she said.



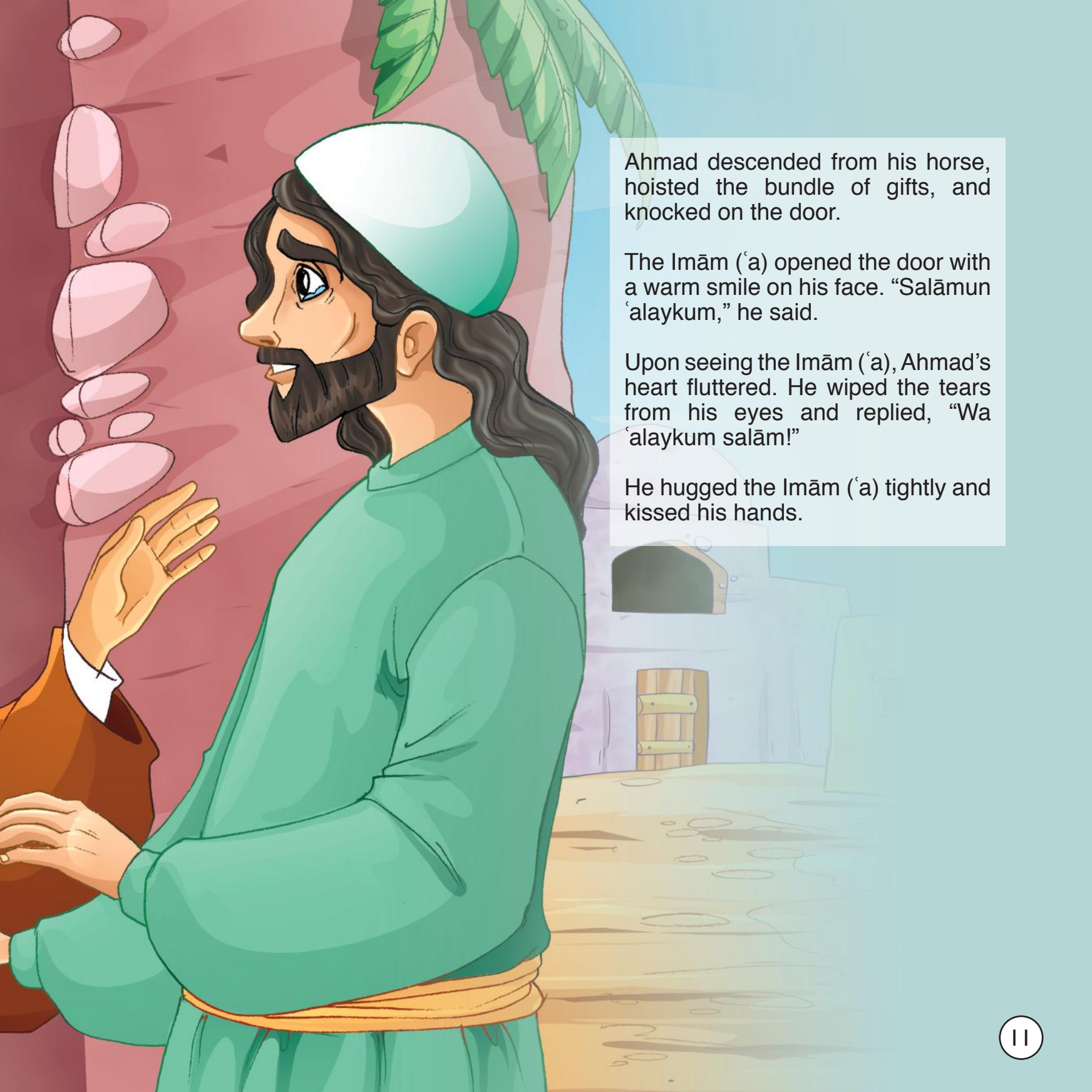
Ahmad took the woven cloth. He couldn't help but notice that it was very small and plain. The old woman read the disappointment in Ahmad's face. "Dear son," she said, "I know it's not much, but I have hope that my Imām (ʿa) will accept it, and maybe, just maybe, he may pray on it even once."

Ahmad nodded, ashamed of his reaction, and placed the woven cloth with the rest of the gifts. Now, Ahmad was ready to begin his journey. The crowd watched as he departed, wishing that they were also young and strong enough to visit their Imām (ʿa).

After traveling for many days, Ahmad finally made it to the city of Sāmarrāʾ. As he entered the city, he was overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle. The streets were filled with people coming and going in all directions.

This was very different from the small, quiet city of Qum. After asking around, Ahmad got directions to the Imām's house, and quickly found his way there.

As he reached the simple home, his heart began to race. He was finally about to meet the Imām (ʿa)!



Ahmad descended from his horse, hoisted the bundle of gifts, and knocked on the door.

The Imām (ʿa) opened the door with a warm smile on his face. “Salāmun ʿalaykum,” he said.

Upon seeing the Imām (ʿa), Ahmad’s heart fluttered. He wiped the tears from his eyes and replied, “Wa ʿalaykum salām!”

He hugged the Imām (ʿa) tightly and kissed his hands.

The Imām (ʿa) led him into a room and sat behind a desk, where he had been writing a letter. Next to him sat a beautiful child, no more than three years old. The child was paying very close attention to what his father was doing.

Ahmad placed the Imām's gifts and letters on the floor. "O son of Rasūlullāh (ṣ)," he said, "I have come all the way from the city of Qum! I have many questions to ask you, if you will allow me!"

The Imām (ʿa) smiled, pointed towards the small child, and kindly said, "Dear Ahmad, please ask my son Mahdī your questions."

Ahmad was surprised, but he knew the Imām (ʿa) did everything for a reason, so he sat next to the small child. His heart stopped as he realized that he was sitting before the final Imām (ʿaj)!

He bent over and kissed the young Imām (ʿaj) on his head. "O my Imām," he said, "may my father and mother be sacrificed for you!* I have been waiting so patiently to see you! I thank Allah for this great blessing!"

*In our ḥadīth and duʿās, when someone wants to show the highest level of loyalty and love towards another person, they use this expression.

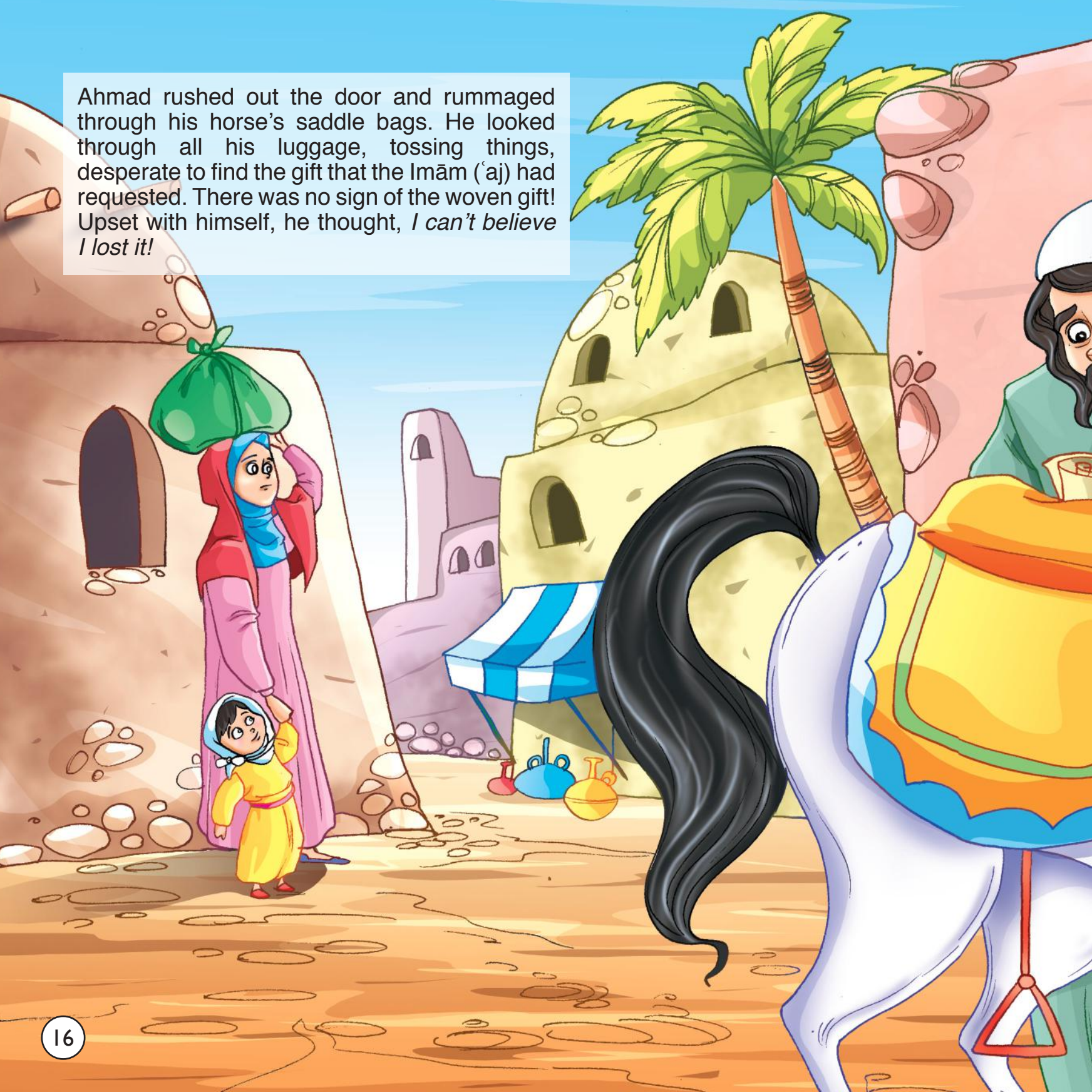
The young Imām (ʿaj) answered each of Ahmad's questions with wisdom and virtue. Satisfied, Ahmad turned towards Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa). He motioned towards the bundle and said, "O Imām, the people of Qum have sent you these gifts and letters."

Imām al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) said, "Dear Ahmad, please take out the gifts and letters, and place them next to my son." Ahmad did so.

The young Imām (ʿaj) looked through the gifts one by one. Suddenly, he asked, "O Ahmad, where is the gift that the old woman gave you?"

Ahmad blinked. Quickly he searched through the items, but he couldn't find it! Beads of sweat began forming on his forehead. How irresponsible of him! He felt very anxious to have lost a gift, and the one that he had looked down on, too!

He apologized to the Imām (ʿaj). "Perhaps her gift is still in the saddle of my horse. I will go look for it right now!" he said, jumping up to go check.



Ahmad rushed out the door and rummaged through his horse's saddle bags. He looked through all his luggage, tossing things, desperate to find the gift that the Imām (ʿaj) had requested. There was no sign of the woven gift! Upset with himself, he thought, *I can't believe I lost it!*

Empty handed, Ahmad walked back into the Imām's home with a bowed head. He felt ashamed at his error. But he looked up to an amazing sight! The young Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj) was sitting on the woven cloth, reciting prayers!

"Subḥānallāh," Ahmad marveled. The old woman's sincere duʿā had been answered by Allah! Ahmad felt humbled and honored to witness the answering of her duʿā. Her gift may have seemed simple, but her *ikhlāṣ* — pure intention — made it the most valuable gift of all!

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 52, P. 80

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Akhlāq: Islamic morals and ethics

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Ghaybah: A period of occultation in which Imām Mahdī is hidden away from most people

Ikhlāṣ: Sincerity

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Masjid: Mosque

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Rasūlullāh: A title referring to the Noble Prophet Muḥammad

Salāmun ʿalaykum: Peace be upon you

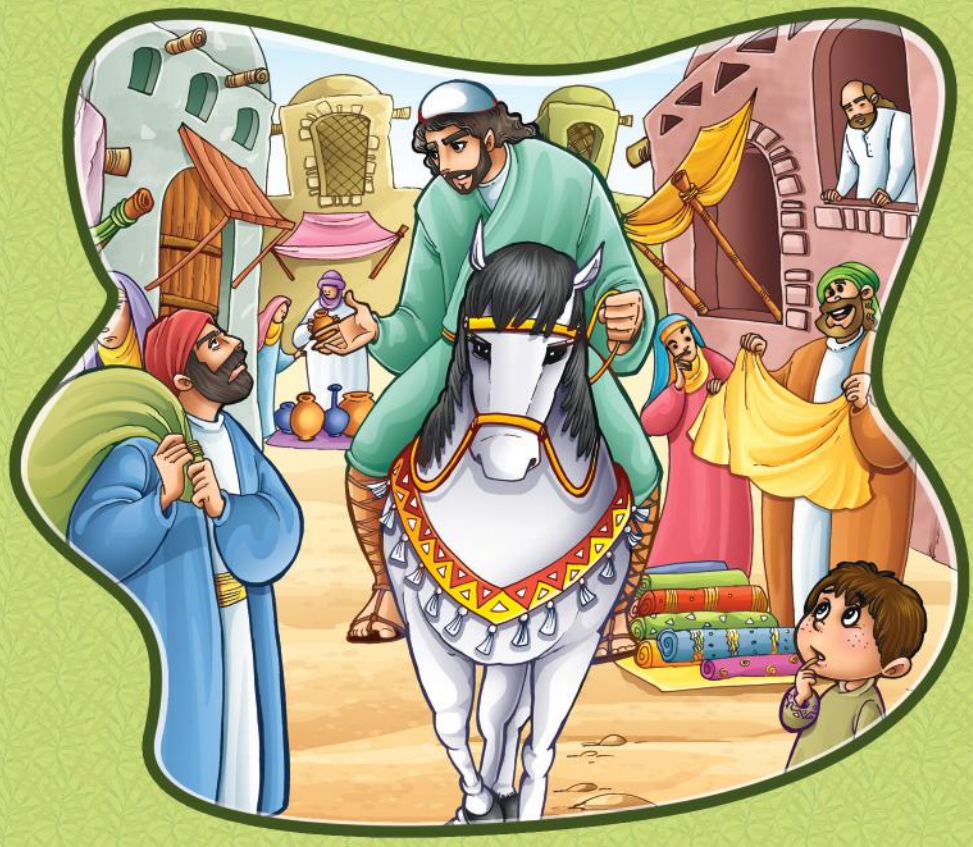
SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Wa ʿalaykum salām: And peace be upon you too

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars



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